



OBITUARIES



Wanda Grant
Nov. 13, 1954 — Jan. 24, 2026

BELCOURT — Wanda Grant, age 71, of Belcourt, ND passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Quentin Burdick Memorial Hospital, Belcourt, ND.

Today we gather with heavy hearts, but also with deep gratitude, to honor and remember a remarkable woman—Wanda Lou “Buttons” Grant. Wanda left this world on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the age of 71, at the Quentin Burdick Healthcare Facility in Belcourt, North Dakota. While her passing leaves a space that can never truly be filled, her love, strength, and legacy live on through the many lives she touched.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:00 AM on Friday, January 30, 2026 at St. Ann’s Catholic Church, Belcourt, ND with visitation beginning at 8:00 AM and Rosary Service at 9:00 AM prior to the funeral mass with Father Michael Slovak, SOLT presiding.

Burial will take place in St. Ann’s Catholic Cemetery, Belcourt, ND in the spring.

Wanda was born on November 13, 1954, in Belcourt, ND, to John Lind and Sylvia Laducer Brien. From the very beginning, family was at the center of her life. She was a proud and devoted mother to six children—Lori, Frank Jr., Tanya, Gene, James, and Kevin—and she made it clear every single day how deeply she loved them. Her pride didn’t stop there. Wanda was blessed with 32 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren with 3 more on the way, each one holding a special place in her heart. She had a unique bond with every child and grandchild, and they all knew exactly how much Grandma loved them.

Wanda was a hard worker. She didn’t just raise her own children—she helped raise sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and countless neighborhood kids. Her home was always full, her door always open, and her table always welcoming. If you needed a place to go, a meal to eat, or someone to listen, Wanda was there.

Throughout her life, Wanda wore many hats. Above all else, she was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She also worked as a Head Start cook, waitress, laboratory technician, childcare provider, and later as a TM Tribal Office Telephone Operator, a position she held until retirement. No matter the job, she gave it her all, with kindness, humor, and dedication.

Wanda knew how to enjoy life. She loved going to the casino, dancing, playing bingo and cards,

cooking, canning, gardening, flowering and making homemade wine. And anyone who knew Wanda knew about her bread—legendary bread. She didn’t just make it; she shared the knowledge, teaching many others how to bake it just right. Her happiest moments were spent surrounded by family and friends, laughing, visiting, and enjoying the simple joy of being together.

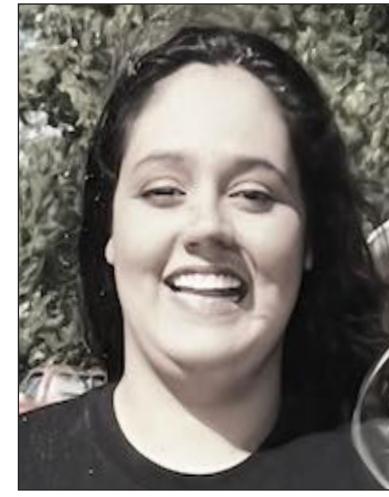
Wanda is survived by her children: Lori (Glen) Goulet; Frank (Joy) Grant Jr.; Gene Grant Sr.; James (Colinda) Grant; Kevin Grant Sr., all of Belcourt; and Tanya Grant (Robby Parisien) of Rolette. She is also survived by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her siblings Robert (Jeanette) Laducer, Willard “Billy” Brien, Gordon Brien Jr. (Nada Parisien), Shelly Brien, Micki Brien all of Belcourt, Carl “Jackie” Brien of Dunseith, John Brien (Lisa Langan) of St. John, Roxanne Nelson of OK, and Marianne Brien of OR; as well as many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sylvia Brien and Johnny Lind; beloved spouse, Frank Grant Sr.; stepfathers, Gordon Brien Sr. and Francis Brien; sister, Jeanie Parisien; brother, Kyle “Opie” Brien; nieces, Kara Brien-Jeanette and Tori Brien. Wanda “Buttons” Grant will be remembered for her generosity, her strength, her laughter, and the way she made everyone feel like family. Though we say goodbye today, we carry her with us—in our stories, our kitchens, our homes, and our hearts. Her love will continue to guide us, comfort us, and remind us what truly matters.

Rest easy, Wanda. You were deeply loved, and you will be

forever missed.

Arrangements are with Elick Funeral Home, Rolla, ND.



Heather DeCoteau
Jan. 1, 1985 — Jan. 24, 2026

BOTTINEAU — Heather DeCoteau, age 41 of Bottineau, passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at a Fargo hospital.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Dunseith. Her wake service began at 9:00 am Friday, January 30th at the church.

Heather Dawn DeCoteau, “Little Rainbow Woman”, was born on January 1, 1985, in Belcourt, North Dakota, to Shelly (Chase) and William ‘Billy’ DeCoteau, Jr.

She passed peacefully at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota, after a courageous 2 1/2-year battle that took her through ten different care facilities. Through it all, she showed strength, humor, and love for those around her.

She was raised in Belcourt and attended Dunseith Day School before continuing public school through the 10th grade. Determined to move forward, she earned her GED through Job Corps in Minot. Throughout her life, she was known as a hard worker and held positions at Dale’s Restaurant and Lounge in Dunseith, Sky Dancer Casino in Belcourt, and Treasure Island Casino in Trenton, North Dakota.

In 2010, she met the love of her life, Marty Espe. The two shared 16 years together, during which he adored her completely and made sure she was always cared for and spoiled, just as she deserved.

She was the proud mother of her daughter, Rebecca Lee DeCoteau, born October 18, 2006. Being Becca’s mom was one of her greatest joys. She was immensely proud of her daughter’s accomplishments, including being crowned Miss Teen North Dakota 2022 and passing her exams to be accepted into nursing school. She could often be heard hollering proudly while watching Becca play hockey. Family meant everything to her.

She helped raise her nephew Rylan for eight years, from elementary through middle school, holding a special place in her heart for “Cry” or “Ry-Ry,” whom she cared for as her own. She also opened her home and heart to many children over the years, always making sure no one went without food, love, or attention.

She loved powwows, casinos, cooking, music, horse races, dancing the two-step, and spending time with family and friends. She was famous for her cookouts—especially on the Fourth of July and during the Super Bowl—and loved time at the lake, on the pontoon, or at the cabin. Above all, she wanted everyone around her to be happy, fed, and having fun.

She shared a close bond with Roberta and Jimbob, who she lived with and loved like parents. Her godparents were Robert DeCoteau and Julie Peltier.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Shelly (Chase) DeCoteau; grandparents Chester and Josephine (Azure) Chase, and William and Telephene DeCoteau; sister Denise Morin; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She is survived by her father, William (Billy) DeCoteau, Jr.; her stepmother; her daughter, Rebecca Lee DeCoteau; her significant other, Marty Espe; siblings Brandon DeCoteau (Dunseith), Tiffany DeCoteau (Minot), and William (Baby Billy) DeCoteau III (Dunseith); half-siblings Jason Malnourie (Parshall) and others; step-siblings Brooke Schroeder, Lenny Schroeder, Robert Peltier, and Ryan Peltier; along with many extended family members and friends who were touched by her kindness and generosity.

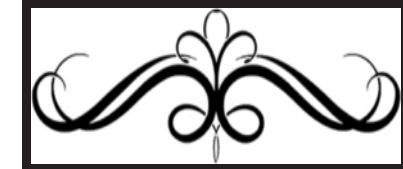
Heather will be remembered for

grandchildren, Amelia, Oliver, James, Jacob, Christian, and Nathan; siblings, Beverly (Jesus) Nadeau of Dunseith, Annie Marold of Denver, Bruno Jr. (Linda) Nadeau of Dunseith, Mark Nadeau of Belcourt, Patrick Nadeau of Dunseith, Rudy (Bernice) Nadeau of Ft. Morgan, CO, and Ronnie (Ruby) Nadeau of Belcourt; and nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were with Nero Funeral Home, Bottineau, ND.

Aloysius was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Margaret Nadeau, brothers, John, Andrew, Jerry and Donald Nadeau, and sisters, Nora Champagne, Barbara Nadeau, JoAnn Belgarde, Josephine Nadeau and Debbie Casias.

Arrangements were with Elick Funeral Home, Rolla, ND.



DEATH NOTICES

Leo M. Lenoir, Sr.
June 11, 1947 - Jan. 20, 2026

BELCOURT — Leo Martin Lenoir Sr., age 78, of Belcourt, ND passed away on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, New Rockford, ND.

Funeral services are planned for the spring of 2026.

Arrangements are with Elick Funeral Home, Rolla, ND.

Ramona M. LaFountain
July 10, 1957 - Jan. 24, 2026

ROLETTE — Ramona Mae LaFountain, age 68, of Rolette, ND passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Quentin Burdick Memorial Hospital, Belcourt, ND.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at St. Benedict’s Catholic Church, Belcourt, ND with visitation beginning at 8:00 AM and Rosary Service at 9:00 AM prior to the funeral mass with Father Richard Fineo presiding.

Burial will be in St. Ann’s Catholic Cemetery, Belcourt, ND in the spring.

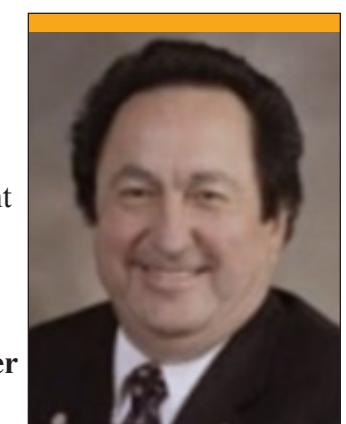
Arrangements are with Elick Funeral Home, Rolla, ND.

Rodney Poitra
Dec. 20, 1965 - Jan. 27, 2026

BELCOURT — Rodney Poitra, age 60 of Belcourt, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at a Minneapolis, MN hospital.

Arrangements are with Nero Funeral Home, Bottineau, ND.

**Re-Elect
Richard Marcellais**
State Senator in District 9
16 Years Experience



I am requesting your endorsement at the **District 9 Democratic NPL Convention on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 1:00p.m.** at the **Sky Dancer Casino Event Center**

Your support is appreciated

(Paid for by Richard Marcellais)

TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING AUTHORITY T.D.H.E.
A TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY
P.O. BOX 620 • 1/4 mile S. on Hwy. #5 • Belcourt, ND 58316-0620
Telephone 701-477-5673 Administration Office Fax 701-477-3247

Request for Proposal for Auto Insurance

The Turtle Mountain Housing Authority (TMHA), a tribally designated housing entity, is requesting proposals for **AUTO INSURANCE**. The coverage is for a three-year period - April 16, 2026 to April 16, 2029.

Successful firm must comply with local, federal and TERO rules and regulations.

Indian Preference will apply.

Proposals closing will be at 4:00p.m. February 26, 2026.

For more information contact JR Davis at (701) 477-5673.

Email: adavis@tmhousing.net

TMHA reserves the right to waive any informality and/or reject any and all bids. Indian Preference will Apply.

Lines from the Lighthouse



Apostolic Doctrine

Greetings in The Name of Jesus Christ! I've been asked numerous times what I believe or what my religion is. When I answer that I'm an Apostolic, the next question is usually, What is that? I tell people that Apostolic is not a Religion, because we are not Religious. As far as our beliefs everything is Bible based and all of our Teachings are direct commandments from God. After Jesus was crucified, the Bible tells us in **Acts 1:2-3** that He (Jesus) gave them commandments through The Holy Ghost and spoke to them about things pertaining to The Kingdom of God. In verse 8 of that same chapter Jesus tells them, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

So after the disciples and all the others that were in the Upper room (about 120) received The Holy Ghost and the power that was promised to them from God, we see where the Apostolic Church was founded. Peter began to do what Jesus commanded them to do and that was to witness and preach to all those that were around to hear it. **Acts 2:36-42** “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. **37** Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? **38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. **40** And with

many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. **41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The basis of being Apostolic is to follow **Acts 2:38** and then to continue steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine. The Bible says in **Mark 12:28-30** And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? **29** And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: **30** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Jesus was asked, what is the most important commandment of all and Jesus told him that there is only 1 God and that we are to love Him with all our heart. Jesus was referencing the Bible in **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** when He quoted scripture.

The biggest difference in The Bible's teaching (which is what we follow) and what is used by all other religions is Baptism. **Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. These are the words of Jesus and the most important part of that verse is the singular term NAME used to describe baptism. **John 10:30** I and my Father are one. Jesus said in **John 5:43** I am come in my Father's name.... We see the name of the Father is Jesus when we look at the scriptures.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his

Pastor Todd Belgarde
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